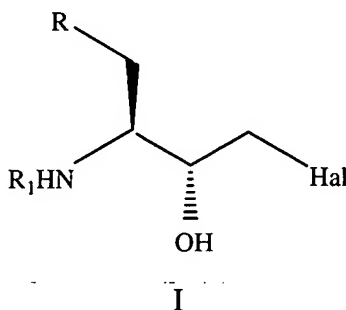
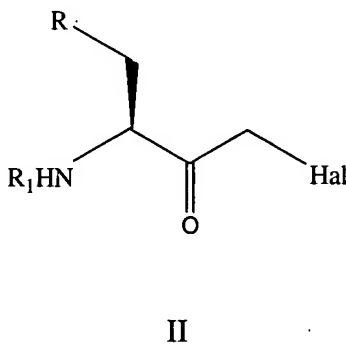


Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A stereoselective process for the preparation of (3S,2R) [1S,2R]-1-halo-2-hydroxy-3-(protected)amino-4-substituted butanes represented by the formula I



wherein Hal is halogen, R is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, substituted alkyl, aryl and substituted aryl and R₁ is a protecting group for the amino function comprising contacting a (3S) [1S]-1-halo-2-oxo-3-(protected)amino-4-substituted butane represented by formula II



wherein Halo, R and R₁ are as defined above with a microorganism capable of catalyzing the stereoselective reduction of the compound represented by formula II wherein said microorganism is selected from the group consisting of *Rhodococcus erythropolis* ATCC 4277, *Rhodococcus erythropolis* DSM 6971, [and] *Rhodococcus sp.* ATCC 21227, *Rhodococcus erythropolis* ATCC 27854 and *Brevibacterium sp.* ATCC19653 under

conditions such that said reduction is effected, and recovering said compound represented by formula I.

2. (Original) A process in accordance with Claim 1, wherein Hal is chloro, R is phenyl and R₁ is t-butoxycarbonyl.
3. (Original) A process in accordance with Claim 1, wherein said microorganism is *Rhodococcus erythropolis* ATCC 4277.
4. (Original) A process in accordance with Claim 1, wherein said microorganism is *Rhodococcus erythropolis* DSM 6971.
5. (Original) A process in accordance with Claim 1, wherein said microorganism is *Rhodococcus species* ATCC 21227.
6. (Original) A process in accordance with Claim 1, wherein said microorganism is *Rhodococcus species* ATCC 27854.
7. (Original) A process in accordance with Claim 1, wherein said microorganism is *Brevibacterium sp.* ATCC19653.
8. (Original) A process in accordance with Claim 1 carried out as a one-stage fermentation.
9. (Original) A process in accordance with Claim 1 carried out as a two-stage fermentation.
10. (Currently Amended) A process in accordance with Claim 1 carried out in the presence of an inducer effective to initiate or enhance the reduction.

11. (Original) A process in accordance with Claim 10, wherein the inducer is a compound represented by formula I that is added during the growth of said microorganism.
12. (Original) A process in accordance with Claim 1, wherein compound represented by formula I is obtained in at least 70 % yield and at least 93% diastereomeric purity.
13. (Original) A process in accordance with Claim 10, wherein compound represented by formula I is obtained in at least 95 % yield and at least 99% diastereomeric purity.
14. (Cancelled)
15. (Cancelled)
16. (New) A process in accordance with claim 10, wherein the inducer is a 1-halo-2-oxo-3-(protected) amino-4-substituted butone represented by formula II.